

## **PSFC Steering Committee Meeting Notes**

4.29.14

### **Conference call participants:**

Carrie Byron, EPA  
Bob Dach, BIA  
Jay Davis, USFWS  
Lori Morris, Corps  
Laurie Jenkins, NPS  
Clark Pitchford, Navy  
Linda Ulmer, USFS  
Amy Lieb, USFS  
Elizabeth Babcock, NOAA

### **Briefing on Corps work in Dungeness (Lori Morris)**

- Corps got some money after the JSKT forum to work on the Dungeness. There is currently a section 544 restoration project going on there to set back Phase I – 110 acres of restoration of lower Dungeness.
- The Tribe asked for a comprehensive look at the lower floodplain to see what they could do
- The Corps had done some hydrologic modeling for the Tribe in Phase II and Phase VI (see map)
- Corps got \$85k this year to continue this work.
- Lori talked to Scott Chitwood at the Tribe and his staff to talk about what they could do
- Phases III, IV, and VII modeling occurring (III is federal levee, others are not)
- Need to do cost estimates of real estate purchases, build levee setbacks, and propose alignments, and look at cultural resources.
- Found a cultural resource site in Phase I, so need to do more scoping on that as well as wetlands
- Will use \$\$ to scope out area and provide Tribe with a path forward. Corps might be able to provide funding for III, but for IV and VII could partner with other agencies
- Restoration of some sites may be cost prohibitive, and there is a need to reach out to property owners
- Corps money ends 9/30

### **June 3 Deputies' Meeting Planning (Carrie Byron)**

- We are not sure if everyone got invitations or not who should have
- Status of meeting planning is unknown – there will be a briefing at the EC

### **Updates on 3 strategy documents/workplans**

#### *Fish Passage (Amy Lieb)*

- Amy not available next Wednesday but there will be USFS representation. Person most up to speed is Miranda Plum from USFWS. She has been pulling together field crew on this.
- USFWS had a 2-day EEO training, Miranda likely won't be there
- Amy will brief Jennifer Eberlien so she can give a 5 minute or so update

- This season the crew estimates they can go see about 40 culverts
- USFWS provided base funding to support this effort, has also received several grants from different sources to do this work
- Work is scheduled to happen this summer
- Using USFWS tech folks in fish division. Looking at temp and term folks to do this work.
- Next steps – prioritization, and then finding funding for project work.
- Federal info could get into state database and be used to prioritize across jurisdictions
- Laurie interested in EPA funding. Would be useful to know sooner rather than later on that.
- FS made commitment that if we do fund those, would need to be funded by end of 2015. Picked high priority culverts that could be done by end of next year. Also looked at ones with some design work and NEPA already done. Some projects were closer to launch than others
- Did not have available time to consult tribes, but USFWS has worked with tribes in past to know priorities from tribes. 20 tribes in Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie so getting tribal input would be tough, and consensus would be challenging
- For NPS, tribes have been involved in helping prioritize but could dig deeper

#### *Shoreline Armoring (Carrie Byron)*

- EPA, NOAA and the Corps have been working to figure out if there are ways to approach shoreline armoring permitting differently
- Have been charged with developing a workplan on armoring permitting and mitigation by 6/30.
- Group met in April to flesh out workplan
- Draft workplan in circulation now – includes collecting information that could be used to inform permitting and to have a workshop convening experts on the subject
- Need to develop workplan to move ahead on mitigation work

#### *Additional NOAA/Corps Issues (Elizabeth Babcock)*

- Mud Mountain Dam has been a hot topic for discussion. Will Stelle is going back next week to talk to General Kem and HQ folks.
- Funding is a big issue there and also Corps does not believe they have 3<sup>rd</sup> party contracting there. Is there an ability to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party do barrier dam and fish trap issues. Is being appropriately and actively worked at a higher level.
- 60 day NOI to sue from American Rivers and Muckleshoot
- Jurisdiction issue – has been an ongoing issue. Will and the General met. Corps has used MHHW for 40 years and sees no reason to change. Agreement to disagree on this.
- Not on shortlist for resolution right now but not an active part of formal agenda. That has happened at a different level.
- NOAA has a little money to see if we could put a finer point on functions one would gain in terms of fish and ecosystem recovery between MHHW and HAT. Matt L will shepherd that work, not Elizabeth

\*Carrie will resend 5/7 Executive Committee meeting invitation to corps

#### *Floodplain/Riparian Habitat (Elizabeth Babcock)*

- NRCS working closely with Steve Landino on ag strategy. They are working with Fish Commission, EPA, others .
- Jen Steger is working with Steve and Sherre on TNC, PSP, others looking at multiple benefit investments describing those efforts
- Overlap between lowland ag areas and investment area consideration places
- TNC got 50 million to lead coordinated investment approach with emphasis on floodplain, ag, and salmon recovery
- Trying to figure out if there is a community interest in taking this on.
- Can we spend our \$\$ in a way that gets better outcomes than if each individual agency goes on their own
- Jim Kramer helped figure this out
- Big meeting last week. Next step is take this out and operationalize this. Jen and Sherre is involved. Jen hasn't gotten much response. Wondering if this is a good use of her time. Needs feedback from us
- Network of interests at federal level are coming together. Will have projects identified in next 6 months.
- Does it make sense to work through fed caucus?
- \*Carrie will check with Jen to see if she can present for Execs

#### **Executive Committee Meeting Agenda (all)**

- Updates on all topics discussed above
- Question – are execs part of agenda setting for 6/3?
  - Only 1 hour for meeting focusing on limited # of topics. Will thinks primary topic is to address elevation memo (20 minutes) Conflict on major issues related to funding and authorization might be a useful discussion so people understand comparability of those to culverts in terms of TRAR parallel
  - Other agencies could support getting Corps funding on the hill
  - Other possible issue is informational briefing on ag buffers. Not decisional but an update on complexity of that issue.
  - \*Carrie will follow up with Sherre to see if she has a briefing paper on ag topic